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Dear Commissioner

Could there be fraud in the U.S. Patent Office?.

I mailed a divisional application to the patent office in 2003. When my application was received on August 04, 2003, the patent office was well aware of all the facts. They knew this was my second filing for this invention. A payment of \$375.00 was paid in the proper time frame to receive a continuation on the original application. The date for this application was January 24, 2002. The patent office is aware that this invention is entering its final year for patent pending.

When any application is received by the patent office, the office will take roll call on the contents of the application. When my application was received, they took roll call and returned my postcard on the date of August 04, 2003. On this date, the patent office is aware if there are any missing parts. If there are missing parts, the patent office will mail a letter to the applicant requesting the missing parts. This letter will go out as early as the first week of receipt of the application, or within 6 weeks.

Now the patent office looked for missing parts in my application on August 04,2003; that would mean I would receive a "missing parts" letter no later than September 19,2003. No letter ever arrived; so, I assume that means there were no missing parts. But the patent office has done something that is completely unheard of. When the application was received, the patent office sat on the application for over a year before mailing out a "missing parts" letter. This is something that the office has "No" explanation for.

The patent office is now informing me that my application is incomplete; it is missing a drawing, and my original filing date is now lost. In the "missing parts" letter, the patent office suggests that I can file a petition to determine if I deserve a filing date. The patent office was aware of the missing drawing on August 04,2003; the date on the "missing parts" letter is September 10,2004.

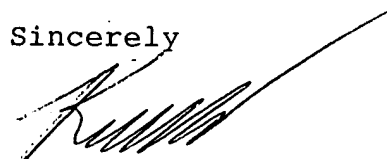
The patent application is due for completion on January 24 2005. This proves that the patent office deliberately sat on my application until the month of September. The date on the "missing parts" letter is 4 months and 14 days from the date the patent is due for completion, and it requires 2 to 4 months to get a reply from a petition. This proves that the patent office waited until the last minute, to mail the "missing parts" letter. The petition will be denied, in the same month the patent is due. This is how the patent office plans to keep the invention in the patent pending stage for three more years.

If my application was missing a drawing that would mean the drawing is still in my possession, it is not. The mistake that I made was, I forgot to put the word "drawing" on my postcard. The patent office realized this. This is how the patent office was able to sadotage, and commit fraud against my application. The patent office knows if it were to take responsibility for the year plus, it took "them" to mail me a "missing parts" letter that would mean that all of my filing dates are still valid, and my application must be completed no later than January 24,2005.

The replacement drawing was received on September 27,2004, giving the patent office plenty of time to patent the invention; by January 24,2005. But this situation is not about a missing drawing, this is about the U.S. Patent Office committing fraud, to prevent the world's first fraud proof billing system from receiving a patent!. Why else would I lose a three year old filing position over a drawing that is not even necessary to complete the application.

If this is not a case of intentional fraud by the patent office, why did the office sit on the application for over a year, before mailing a "missing parts" letter. The office knew the invention was entering its final year for patent pending. The patent office knew the application had to be assigned to an examiner to have a patent issued no later than January 24,2005. I am mailing a copy of all the facts of this case to congresswoman Barbara Lee, and senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein. And if my original filing date is not restored, I will sue the patent office for Fraud and Negligence.

Sincerely



Keith A Washington